

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. 25X1A

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 10 Jun 1949

SUBJECT Soviet Airbase at Kobryn (Kobryn).

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS. 1
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. Kobryn Airbase is located on the Muchawiec river, near the bus route from Minsk to Litovsk, by way of Brest, and near the Bulkowo-Pinsk railroad. The Kobryn area is shown on the attached sketch, a key to which follows. [The letters refer to corresponding letters on the sketch.]

- (a) Grain elevator, consisting of two rather large buildings, built during the period of German occupation. Their capacity is two to three thousand tons.
- (b) Kobryn railroad station, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ kilometers north of the Brest-Litovsk-Minsk road.
- (c) Gasoline storage: 300 meters north of the warehouse [(a) above] and 40 meters west of the railroad line. About six to eight tanks the size of a railroad fuel (tank) car are permanently mounted on cement blocks. There is no connecting spur to these tanks. The gasoline is pumped from the train cars to the stationary tanks through pipe lines. The gasoline was usually taken away from the tanks by Air Force personnel.
- (d) Gasoline storage: about 300 meters northwest of the Kobryn station on the Kobryn-Bulkowo rail line. A connecting rail runs from the station to this storage area which is about 300 to 400 meters in size and which is encircled by a board fence. An ordinary driveway runs from the Kobryn station past the gasoline storage area, then bears to the east and crosses the rail line. Located here are about 15 tanks with an estimated capacity of 50 thousand liters per tank. These tanks are about half buried and have earth thrown up around them. Within the compound, there is a small wooden structure which houses the administrative personnel of the gasoline depot.
- (e) Kilometer marker "1021" which lies directly opposite the prison camp.
- (f) Prisoner-of-war camp 7410/6.
- (g) Entrance to the airfield.
- (h) Parking area for the road construction worker's unit; about 40 to 60 trucks are kept here. (Fuel for these trucks is obtained from the larger gasoline storage area.)

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(d)

- (i) Repair shop for Soviet aircraft, particularly for the turbine-fighter type plane. The repair shop is about 100 to 150 meters south of the Brest-Litovsk-Minsk road. It consists of wooden sheds in which two or three planes may be repaired simultaneously. At one time, there were as many as 50 aircraft standing at the open side of the sheds, waiting for repairs.
- (j) Fuel dump: Gasoline was transported from the airbase by light, motor-driven tank trucks. The method of storage is unknown to the informant.
- (k) Kilometer marker "1018", which is directly across from the fuel dump (j).
- (l) Ruins of a military barracks or storage building, located on the north side of the road, opposite the repair shop.
- (m) Two brickyards, located about two and one half to three and one half kilometers north of the Brest-Litovsk-Minsk road.
- (n) City of Kobryn.
- (o) Kobryn Airbase: extending north about three kilometers. The field has no cement runways.

2. The air strength of Kobryn has varied, amounting at times to between 500 and 600 aircraft. During August and September 1948, there were an average of about 30 turbine-fighters (jet fighters) at the base. The turbine-fighters have one turbine and one or two exhaust channels. In front, a cannon appears to project from the turbine. An extra-heavy machine gun or small cannon is mounted in each wing, near the fuselage. In late summer 1948, a general visited the airbase for an inspection. It was rumored at that time that the staff of the turbine-fighter group would be transferred to another locality. In September 1948, these planes were shipped out, together with their pilots, ground personnel, dependents and furniture. The planes were loaded on railroad cars and covered with wooden structures so that the cars looked like circus cars. Large quantities of supplies were taken along and all preparations were made for a long trip. The Soviets who remained at the airbase said that the planes had been transferred to the Sakhalin peninsula [sic]. Later two or three turbine-fighters landed at Kobryn Airbase again. In October 1948, there were about 80 gasoline-operated aircraft at the field, predominantly heavy fighters, each equipped with one in-line engine. There were also two or three Douglas twin-engined planes at the airbase in October 1948.

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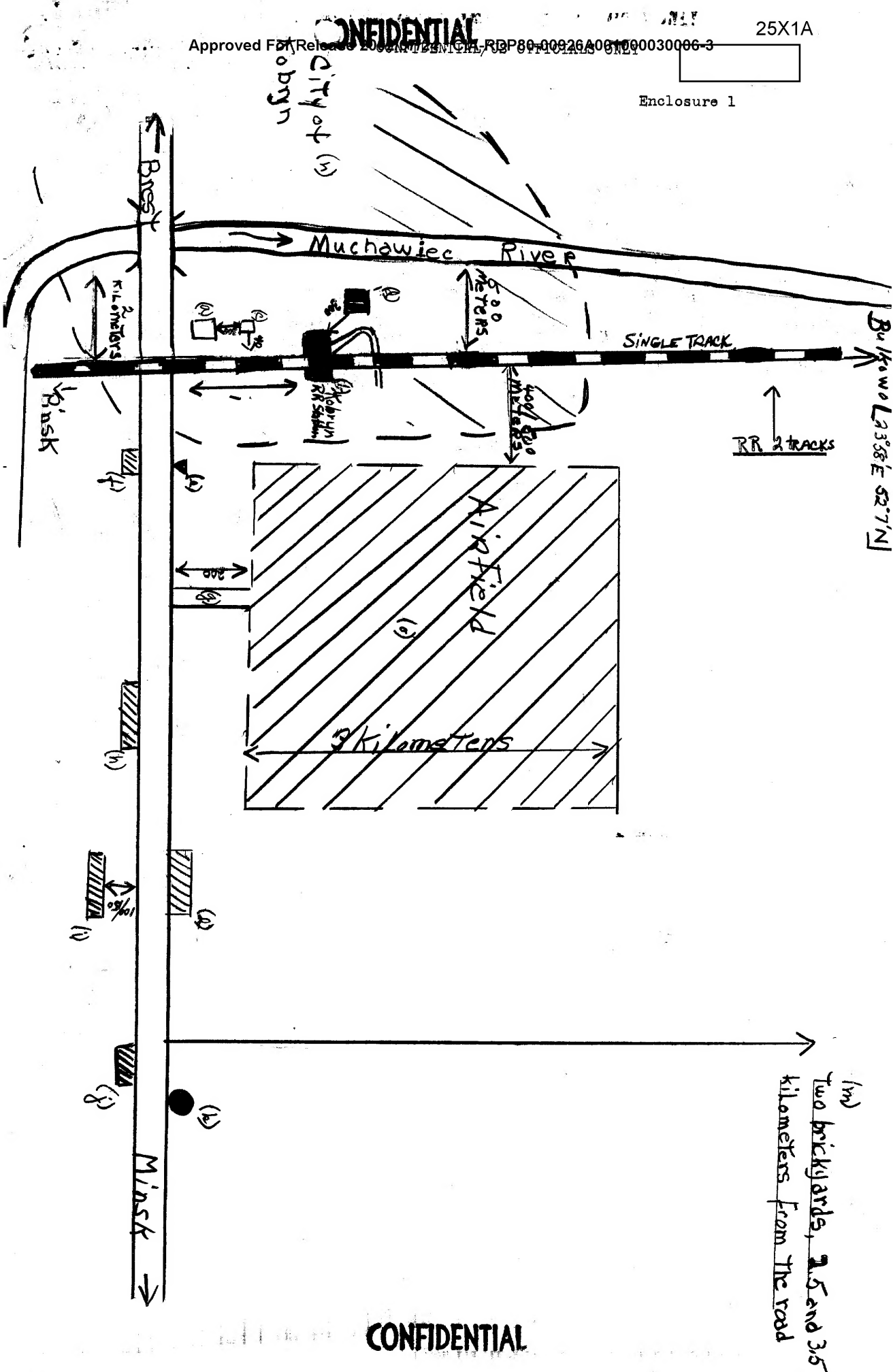
Enclosure: Sketch of Kobryn Airbase

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Enclosure 1



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